1: Seligmann, C. G. & Brenda Z. Seligmann. The Veddas. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1911.

Pp. xix, 463; 71 plates; 15 text figures; appendix; glossary; index

Yale: Nkd72 I38 911s

[The authors of this first comprehensive study of the Veddas devoted most of their attention to the jungle-dwelling Veddas whose way of life is more primitive than the Village Veddas and the Coastal Veddas. All of them, however, have come under the influence of foreign cultures. One of the major aims of this book is to trace the course of this acculturation process and to reconstruct the historical development of Vedda society. In describing the contemporary Veddas, the authors supplement their personal observations with reports written by previous observers. The topics discussed include the kinship structure, village organization, economic activities, life cycle, religion,

1: Seligmann, C.G. & Brenda Z. Seligmann.

music, language, and sensory perception. A rather extensive list of Vedda words is included in the text. --Analyst]

Field date: 1907-1908
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologists-5
Processed in 1961

111 AX5 Vedda

2: Bailey, John. An Account of the Wild Tribes of the Veddahs of Ceylon: their Habits, Customs, and Superstitions. Transactions of the Ethnological Society of London, n.s., Vol. 2, pp. 278-320. London: 1863.

Yale: Nk10 Et35e 2

[Bailey, who was Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary of Ceylon for a period, gives a description of the Vedda based principally upon his own observations. Covering first physical anthropology, he proceeds to describe the economic life, social life, and religious beliefs of the people. He then attempts to reconstruct the origin of the Veddas. Finally, the author includes a vocabulary and list of names. --Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1854
Analyst: James R. Leary

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1961

3: Naish, R.B. A Vedda Propitiation Ceremony. Folk-Lore, Vol. 41, pp, 187-194. London: Published for the Folk-Lore Society by William Glaisher, Ltd., 1930.

Yale: Nkg10 F72 90-91

/This short article was written by an administrative officer who was engaged in combatting a cholera epidemic in Ceylon. It describes in narrative form a propitiation ceremony undertaken annually to honor the Great Goddess (Periya Devi). The ceremony was performed by the Vedda of a remote coastal village north of Batticaloa. The description is spotty and incomplete since Mr. Naish was too tired to stay till the end of the performance, but it does offer some data on costumes, participants, music and manner of dancing associated with the ritual. ---Analyst/

Field date: 1925
Analyst: A. Vinogradov

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1965

4: Lewis, Frederick. Notes on Animal and Plant Life in the Vedda Country. Spolia Zeylanica, Vol. 10, pp. 119-165. Colombo: Colombo Museum, by H. R. Cottle, Acting Government Printer, 1919.

1 map

Yale: S4 C335S 9-10

/The author, a natural scientist and Fellow of the Linnean Society, travelled extensively in the Uva and the Eastern Provinces which form the traditional land of the Veddas. He describes in detail the topography of the area, climate (including charts of the rainfall), and water resources, and lists the fauna and flora found, both domestic and wild. The article also includes a short and succinct summary of Vedda aboriginal culture as related to the author by an old Vedda informant. Passing reference is made to present settlement patterns of Veddas, their "secret" language, prevalent types of diseases and native remedies. The material has been

4: Lewis, Frederick.

marked for categories in the Vedda file where it is not ambiguous. Sinhalese and Tamils occupy the same general area. --Analyst/

Field date: (ca. 1906-1918)
Analyst: A. Vinogradov

Evaluation: Natural Scientist-5
Processed in 1965

5: Spittel, Richard Lionel. Wild Ceylon: Describing in Particular the Lives of the Present Day Veddas. Third edition. Colombo: Printed by The Ceylon Daily News for General Publishers Ltd., 1945.

Pp. xiv, 110; 31 photographs; 1 text figure

University of Pennsylvania: 915.48 Sp45

/Pp. 21-33 and 97-110 were not processed since they contained no material on the Veddas. This book is a personal account written by a Burgher physician in the early 1920's relating his experiences while in pursuit of the "pure" Vedda (the Burghers are descendants of Dutch and other European employees of the Dutch East India Co. who intermarried with Sinhalese). The author made several trips covering large tracts of Eastern and Uva Provinces in whose jungles the last remnants of the Vedda still lived under extremely primitive conditions and often in symbiotic relationship with the Sinhalese chena cultivators (shifting cultivation). The author is impressionistic and highly subjective in his reactions to the Veddas he encountered both as individuals or as members of scattered settlements. Some effort is made at reconstructing the aboriginal Vedda culture through use of informants. The best described aspects of Vedda culture contained

5: Spittel, Richard Lionel.

here are their residences and information pertaining to hunting and collecting. It is made clear throughout that what Veddas are left have been strongly influenced both racially and culturally by the Sinhalese and the Tamils. --Analyst

Field date: ca. 1920
Analyst: A. Vinogradov

Evaluation: Physician-5
Processed in 1965